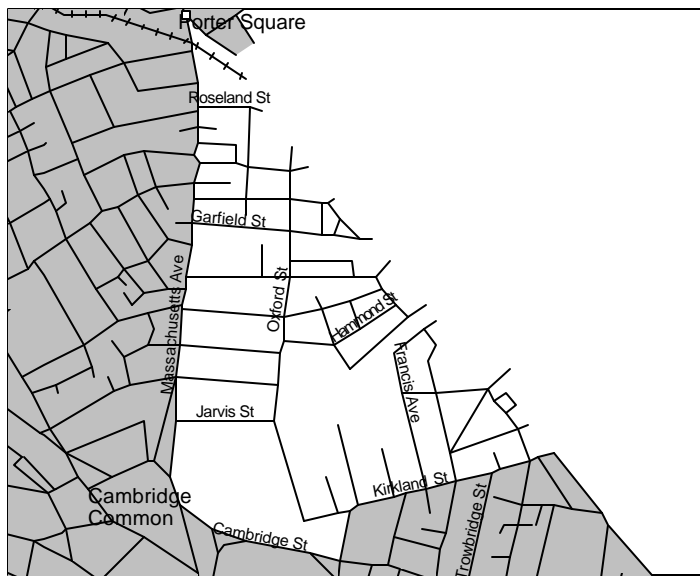
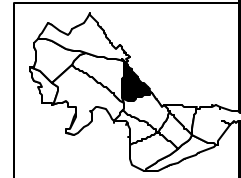


# NEIGHBORHOOD 8

## AGASSIZ



**BOUNDARIES:** bounded by Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge Street, Quincy Street, Kirkland Street, and the Somerville border

**POPULATION:** 5,241 residents  
1,891 households

**AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME:**  
\$36,853

Neighborhood #8 is encompassed by the patrol boundaries of Car 5 (2 officers) and Car 9R (1 officer). It is also covered by walking routes 8A, 8B, and 8C.

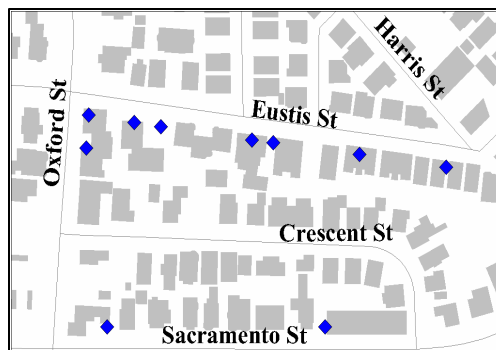
### COMPARISON OF TARGET CRIME STATISTICS, 1998 - 2002

CRIME	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Housebreaks	31	26	20	26	46
Street Robbery	10	1	2	6	6
Auto Theft	3	11	12	12	19
Larceny from MVs	9	44	19	26	47
Malicious Destruction	22	19	30	27	27
Drug Arrests	0	2	1	0	2

### 2002 YEAR END REVIEW

Although Agassiz has typically been a rather quiet neighborhood in the past, in more recent years target crimes have been fluctuating considerably. For the year 2002, target crimes in Agassiz either significantly increased, or remained the same.

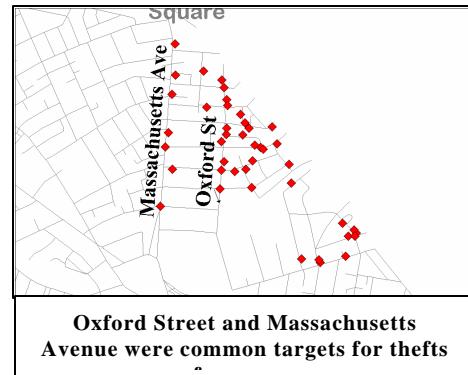
There were a total of forty-six **housebreaks** in 2002. This depicts a seventy seven percent increase in housebreaks, and the highest number in the past five years. A significant amount of these incidents took place on Oxford Street and Eustis Street. There was one arrest during this time, of a Somerville individual who has a *modus operandi* of cutting screens to enter homes. There were a few incidents that involved this *MO* that could not be linked. The first two months of the year experienced a disproportionately greater number of incidents than the rest of the year, and in the last 4 months there was a small number of incidents, which is a contrast to 2001.



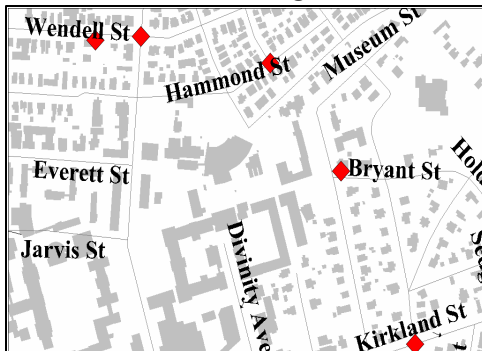
Eustis Street experienced the majority of housebreaks in the Agassiz neighborhood.

There was no real discernable pattern or trend behind **malicious destruction of property** in 2002, and the number of incidents remained the same as the prior year. As is typical, mostly car windows were targeted. This includes a few attempted auto thefts. The spring and summer months experienced the majority of incidents, which mostly took place during the nighttime. Only three of the incidents happened in parking garages. There was one arrest during this time, however it was of a domestic nature.

**Larceny from motor vehicle** (LMV) also increased greatly in 2002, by eighty one percent. The highest occurrence of these took place during the summer months, when the city as whole was experiencing a trend. During this time car stereos, in particular Alpine stereos/face plates, were being targeted. Of the total forty-seven incidents, only one incident took place in a parking garage and one in a parking lot. The most common mode of entry was via breaking a window. The property typically targeted was stereos, compact disk players, and loose change. As can be seen on the map to the right, a significant number of incidents took place on Oxford Street and Massachusetts Avenue.



**Auto theft** increased by fifty eight percent in 2002. Similar to some of the other target crimes, there was a concentration of auto theft on Oxford Street. Almost twenty five percent of the incidents took place on Mondays, and nearly one half occurred between the evening hours of 7p.m. and 11p.m. Thefts remained relatively stable throughout the year, with no particular temporal pattern emerging. Acura Integras were the most targeted vehicle in this neighborhood, followed by Honda Civics and Accords. Recovery locations included: Boston, South Boston, Dorchester, Arlington, Peabody, Lawrence, and Cambridge. There were no thefts reported for the entire month of December.



This map highlights the locations for the six street robberies in 2002. These incidents did not saturate one specific area of the neighborhood.

There were a total of six **street robberies**, which shows no change from 2001. Of the six incidents, four took place during August and September. The first robbery of the year was a purse snatching in March. The remaining incidents were predatory in nature. Only two of these incidents involved weapons, both knives, and four of the robberies involved two perpetrators. Most of these incidents took place during the early morning hours, between 1a.m. and 4a.m. The only repeat location was the intersection of Howland Street and Hammond Street. Three of the late summer incidents were related due to the similarities in suspect and incident description.

**Drug arrests** for 2002 rose from zero incidents to two. Both of these incidents took place in distinct locations, indicating no hotspot. One of the defendants was a Cambridge resident who was picked up on a warrant; cocaine was discovered on his person. The second incident was part of a Special Investigations Unit operation, where a meeting was set up with a non-resident known to sell crack cocaine. Officers found heroin and rocks of crack cocaine on the individual.

ANNUAL AVERAGE FOR AGASSIZ AREA TARGET CRIMES					
Crime	1981-1990	Rank 81-90*	1991-2000	Rank 91-00*	Rank 2002*
Housebreaks	67	8	25	10	6
Street Robbery	11	9	6	10	10

Auto Theft	45	12	20	10	9
Larceny from MVs	47	11	30	11	9
Malicious Destruction	45	11	29	10	11

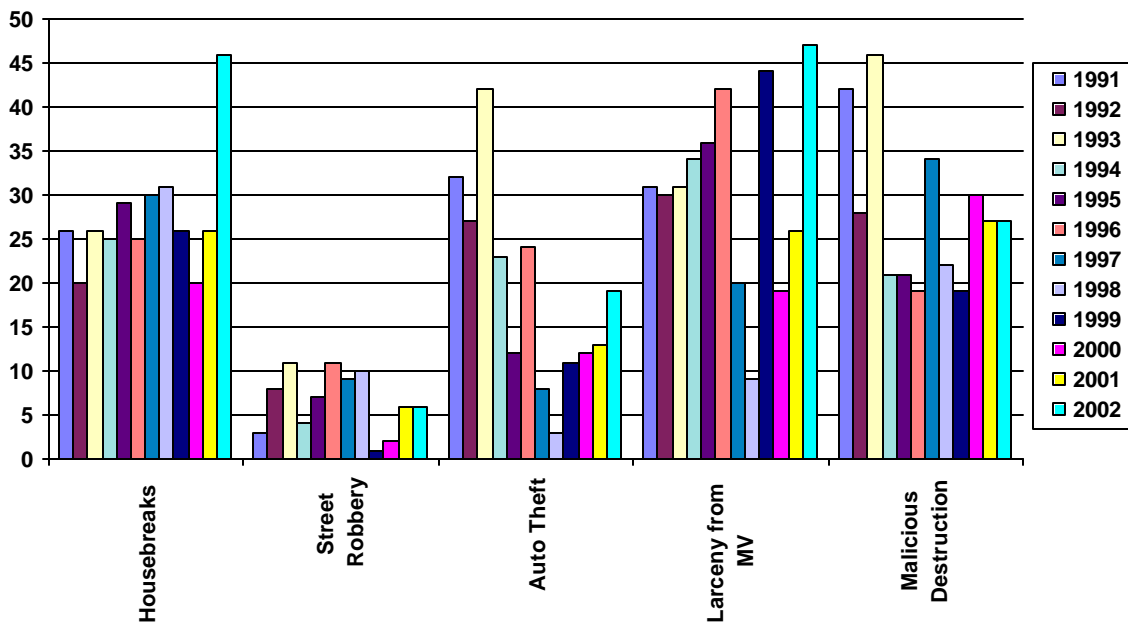
\*Ranks are out of 13 neighborhoods, with 1 indicating the highest crime rate and 13 the lowest

## NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILE AND HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

Over half of the Agassiz neighborhood is occupied by Harvard University and Lesley College. The rest of the residential population is concentrated primarily in a triangle in the northern section of the neighborhood, capped by bustling Porter Square. A number of businesses line Massachusetts Avenue on Agassiz's west border.

*Harvard University, which has its own police department, patrols Harvard property in the southern part of the neighborhood. Our statistics do not reflect most incidents that occur on Harvard University property.*

- Agassiz has a significantly lower than average rate for almost every measured crime. Unlike some other neighborhoods, only one of its borders is defined by a major, heavily trafficked avenue. Only four other neighborhoods have lower average **housebreak** and **larceny from motor vehicle** totals; only three other neighborhoods have lower average totals for **street robberies**, and Agassiz ranks as the third lowest neighborhood for **auto theft** and **malicious destruction**.
- Juveniles entering the neighborhood from Somerville were suspected in a pattern of **street robberies** in 1996 and 1997; such patterns arise every few years, usually clustered at the intersections of Massachusetts Avenue and Wendell Street or Oxford Avenue and Sacramento Street. These occasional patterns generally occur in the late night on weekends.
- Somerville juveniles have also been associated with occasional tire slashings on Forest Street and Massachusetts Avenue. The **malicious destruction** statistics reflect incidents of spray-painting at the Agassiz School.



## 2001 YEAR END REVIEW

There were no drug arrests for the year of 2001. • Agassiz saw an increase in street robberies. There were six robberies, none related in nature. Three of these incidents involved weapons, one knife and two guns. In one of the incidents in July, one of the suspects shot near a victim, and then fled. • A majority of housebreaks occurred in the latter half of the year in 2001. Most of the incidents resulted from forced entry. Forest Street and Sacramento Street were the hotspots for housebreaks in 2001, with five incidents each. • There was only one auto theft more than the prior year in 2001. Several months of the year did not experience any thefts. There were seven recoveries,

for the twelve vehicles stolen. • Larceny from motor vehicle had a forty-one percent increase in 2001. Although no significant pattern emerged, property stolen included the typical cash and change, cell phones, and bags. • There was a forty-two percent increase in malicious destruction of property in Agassiz for 2001. Two incidents of “tagging” occurred on Francis Avenue. A majority of the damage was done to the exterior of motor vehicle. One of the residential incidences was of repeat damage to motion and security lights at a particular location on Kirkland Street.